

Ambassador Al Otaiba Letter to the Editor of Foreign Policy Magazine

Ravi Agrawal
Editor, Foreign Policy

The UAE is not financing and has never financed the Wagner Group as suggested by a recent Foreign Policy story. And a suggestion is really all it is.

The key sentence in the Pentagon report that prompted the story speaks for itself: "The DIA said that reporting on who is financing the Wagner Group's continued presence in Libya is 'ambiguous.'"

But this sentence never made it into the FP story and no ambiguity at all was indicated in the story's original, misleading headline.

Things only get blurrier. From the first line of the story and on, the UAE link to the Wagner group is described with such words and phrases as "apparently," "may," "may have been," "thought to be," "overall impression," "long-harbored suspicions," "likely," "would indicate," and "was likely paid."

No current Pentagon or other sources are cited as presenting any factual information to confirm the vague and unsubstantiated claim.

But we will try - the UAE has asked the Pentagon to share its analysis so we can all know how suggestion and ambiguity can become "news."

Sincerely,

Yousef Al Otaiba
UAE Ambassador to the United States

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